

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-05 ABF-01 FSE-00 /023 W

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R 021540Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1544

UNCLAS TUNIS 0703

FOR : DHEW/OHD/RSA

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY, OSCI, TS

SUBJ: DHEW/OHD/RSA/SFCP--RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE PROJECT

REF : STATE 10588

1. AFTER REPEATED EFFORTS, EMBASSY ABLE TO REACH DR. BEN ISMAIL, WHO STATED THAT PLANS TO SUBMIT REVISIONS TO SUBJECT PROJECT HAD BEEN DROPPED BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES IN REACHING UNDERSTANDING WITH HEW. HE NOTED THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THE CENTER WILL BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS. ALTHOUGH BEN ISMAIL STATED THAT GOT HAS DECIDED TO UNDERTAKE PROJECT ON ITS OWN, HE ADDED THAT IT WOULD STILL WELCOME POSSIBLE HEW COOPERATION.

2. SUBSEQUENTLY, DR. BEN HAMIDA ALSO STATED THAT GOT PROCEEDING WITH PROJECT AND INDICATED THAT HE AND BEN ISMAIL NOT RPT NOT PREPARING REVISED BUDGET. HE NOTED THAT RSA PARTICIPATION WOULD STILL BE DESIRED BUT THAT PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE RESTRUCTURED.

3. IN VIEW OF ABOVE RESPONSES, SUGGEST LITTLE NEED CONTINUE SET ASIDE FUNDS FOR SUBJECT PROJECT UNLESS RSA PREPARED MAKE MAJOR EFFORT RESTRUCTURE ESSENTIALLY NEW PROJECT ALONG LINES ACCEPTABLE TO GOT. SUGGEST THAT IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH THIS OBJECTIVE, FSA REPRESENTATIVE EITHER DISCUSS MATTER FURTHER DIRECTLY WITH BEN ISMAIL OR BEN HAMIDA THROUGH VISIT TO TUNIS OR CORRESPOND DIRECTLY WITH THEM.

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SEELYE

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